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*Extract of a LETTER from the Reverend CHARLES
PERCEVAL to ROBERT PERCEVAL, M. D. and
M. R. I. A.*

DEAR DOCTOR,

IN my way from the county of Cork to this city, I had curiosity to go into the charter-school at Dunkerrin, in the King's county, to see what condition the school was in, and how it was taken care of. Among the children I met one, whose case appeared singular, and a matter of curiosity, I therefore communicate it to you, if perchance you should think it worthy the attention of the Royal Irish Academy.

Read Decr
4, 1790.

JANE BERN, a girl aged eleven years or thereabouts, low in stature, is of an healthy appearance and strong make; her eyes are constructed in an extraordinary manner; their motion, instead of a regular horizontal one, from left to right, and vice versa, is tremulous in all directions, and partly perpendicular, with a prominent motion of the globe of the eye: what lateral motion the eye is capable of is short, interrupted, and gives that organ the appearance of being bound by ligaments, from

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which

which it struggles to get free. The child cannot easily look upwards, or see any object placed above her eyes; and when she reads, which she does without any hesitation or difficulty, she reads perpendicularly from the bottom upwards, and holds the book accordingly. The whole globe of the eye is of a reddish cast, the white is streaked with striæ of a fainter red; the iris is of an uniform deep red approaching to brown; both her eyes are weak and watery, and, when turned from the light, glow with a more fiery and vivid colour than when exposed to it. Though she reads very well, she cannot write, neither do I find that she can work, knit or spin. She seems possessed of a moderate plain understanding, and answered very well in the Church Catechism and Doctor Mann's Exposition of it. She has remarkably fine hair, of the colour of flax, but considerably whiter. The mistress of the school informed me that the child was sent to her from a nursery in the county of Longford in the North of Ireland. I was not informed whether any more of her family had these peculiarities, but mean to make the enquiry when I next happen to travel through that part of the country where the girl is, and shall let you know it.

If the above communication affords matter of speculation or literary amusement to any, it will give great pleasure to,

Dear Doctor,

Your most affectionate brother,

CHARLES PERCEVAL.